

Key Elements of Mandate Reform

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE





Key Elements of Mandate Reform



Little Confidence in Mandate Determination Process

- Revamp commission membership to address the perception of bias.
- Assign greater fiscal and policy review responsibility to state agencies.



Lack of Payments Undermines Credibility of System

- Sunset mandates if the state does not pay promptly.
- Repeal the suspension provision—or modify it greatly.



Delays Decrease Legislative Oversight

- Require local agencies to submit clearer claims faster.
- Fund Commission on State Mandates so that it may meet its statutory deadlines.



Key Elements of Mandate Reform *(Continued)*

- The Legislature Needs Better Information**
 - Create cost estimating unit to assist during legislative development.
 - Inform the Legislature of mandate determination costs shortly after mandate enactment.

- Claiming System Invites Problems**
 - Revamp and simplify mandate reimbursement procedures.
 - Direct local agencies to submit all claims the year after costs are incurred.

- Mandate Determinations Are Stuck in the Past**
 - Establish process for reconsidering mandates when legal thinking or law changes.